(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/078045 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C09K 3/14

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2005/000062

(22) International Filing Date: 13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
S2004/0022 15 January 2004 (15.01.2004) IE

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/078045 A1

(54) Title: METHOD OF COATING ABRASIVES

(57) Abstract: A method of producing coated ultra-hard abrasive material, in particular coated diamond and CBN material. In a first step, an element capable of forming (singly or in combination) carbides, nitrides or borides to the surface(s) of the abrasive material is is applied using a hot coating process. At least one outer layer of a coating material selected from the group comprising transition metals, carbide, nitride, boride, oxide and carbonitride forming metals, metal carbides, metal nitrides, metal borides, metal oxides and metal carbonitrides, boronitrides and borocarbonitrides is applied over the inner layer by physical vapour deposition or chemical vapour deposition. Typically the inner layer elements come from groups IVa, Va, VIa, IIIb and IVb of the periodic table and include, for example, vanadium, molybdenum, tantalum, indium, zirconium, niobium, tungsten, aluminium, boron and silicon. The outer coating is preferably applied by reactive sputtering where a reactive gas is admitted to the sputtering chamber, resulting in the deposition of a compound of the reactive gas and the element being sputtered.